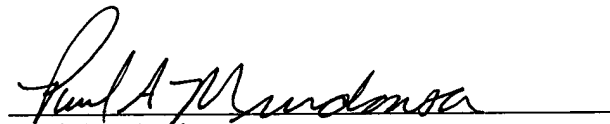


Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1-28 and 39-46 have been canceled. No claims have been added or amended. Thus, claims 29-38 are pending. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: FEB 4, 2004



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